The Psychology Department at Mills integrates scientific approaches to human behavior and its development with immediately practical issues of working with people and addressing their problems. The core of the biopsychology major, which is chaired in the Psychology Department in collaboration with Biology, is the intersection of psychology and biology to understand interactions between mind/body, environment, and behavior. The department maintains a broad, scientifically based curriculum that is consistent with the discipline’s national standards. Students develop knowledge and skills that enable them to appreciate and contribute to the discipline, interdisciplinary connectivity, professional competence, and ethical world citizenship.

Students devise, in consultation with their academic advisors, study plans for the major that are the most appropriate preparation for their particular goals. Each plan includes psychology courses along with course work in other academic areas. Qualified students may cross-register at other nearby institutions for specialized courses not taught at Mills.

During their final two years, many psychology majors enroll in internships that serve as career tryouts, giving them actual experience in the field and making them better prepared for graduate school. Approximately half of Mills psychology majors go on to graduate work in psychology, counseling, or social work. Others go to law school or medical school, using their knowledge in such areas as family medicine, psychiatry, pediatrics, or family law. Those who do not continue to graduate school use their majors in a variety of careers, such as personnel work.

The department has a strong research emphasis. Students have the opportunity to carry out independent research under the guidance of a faculty member or to participate in a faculty member’s own research. One measure of the department’s strength in teaching research techniques is that some Mills psychology majors present their research at professional and student research conferences.

Note: Majors are expected to take History and Issues in Psychology (PSYC 192) at Mills.

**Program Goals:**

- Possess knowledge of contemporary psychological principles and theories.
- Have the ability to find, and to read with comprehension, research studies in the professional literature.
- Understand the value of the scientific method as a way of thinking about questions concerning the causes of (and therapeutic approaches to) behavior.
- Have the ability to apply the scientific method to questions concerning the causes of (and therapeutic approaches to) behavior.
- Have the ability to communicate effectively and responsibly in writing and interpersonal contexts.